United Nations E/2014/NGO/14

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2014

Original: English

2014 session
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by European Disability Forum, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32502 (E) 190514

Please recycle

Statement

European Disability Forum welcomes the theme "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future". The Forum is encouraging Governments to realize a disability-inclusive post-2015 development agenda.

There is wide recognition that progress within the existing Millennium Development Goals framework has not been equitable and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented among those left behind by recent development gains. Intra-country inequalities have widened, in which persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented.

Challenges for persons with disabilities are as follows:

(a) Persons with disabilities continue to face barriers to participation in society, including access to development programmes and funds, education, employment, health care and communication and transportation services;

(b) Persons with disabilities are particularly at risk with respect to the effects of climate change, such as natural disasters and food insecurity, and are also more vulnerable in situations of conflict;

(c) Invisibility of persons with disabilities in the original Millennium Development Goals was accompanied by lack of data on persons with disabilities; this has led to an underestimation of their demographic importance;

(d) Representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities were not involved in the Millennium Development Goal process.

The organization recommends the following for sustaining gains in the future:

(a) Disaggregated data on persons with disabilities: In the past, many quantitative instruments, especially in developing countries, employed methodologies that greatly undercounted persons with disabilities. Recent advances in methods of identifying persons with disabilities through surveys, censuses and administrative data systems are improving the ability to develop, monitor and evaluate policies aimed at promoting inclusion in an internationally comparative way;

(b) Inequalities must be tackled across all new goals according to the "leave no one behind" principle. Learning from gaps in the Millennium Development Goal process, the post-2015 development agenda needs to be based on human rights and address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. When everyone, irrespective of household income, gender, location, ethnicity, age or disability, has access to health care, nutrition, education and other vital services, many of the worst effects of inequality will cease;

(c) Targets that are inclusive of persons with disabilities need to promote inclusion of and accessibility for persons with disabilities. The September 2013 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities set out very clear commitments on ensuring accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development and of giving due consideration to all persons with disabilities in the emerging post-2015 United

Nations development agenda. Specific targets and indicators related to the availability of required enabling structural factors are needed.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities will largely contribute to the eradication of poverty. An inclusive society for all cannot be achieved without the global empowerment of persons with disabilities.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2014

Original: English

2014 session
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Ayuda Social Ecológica y Cultural, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32508 (E) 160514

Please recycle

Statement

Regarding the balance of progress and obstacles in the context of the last year of implementation towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, progress has been made as humanity has never before achieved to benefit the entire planet and disadvantaged human beings. We congratulate all who have been involved in this effort: the United Nations, Member States, NGOs and the rest of humanity to have come this far.

For this reason, we consider that we must continue moving towards the Millennium Development Goals in a second phase after 2015, keeping the same goals while improving the current ones, so we will reach them in time. This is the right way, although it could be improved and for which we propose another 25 years.

There are already numerous studies, researches and insights that have been achieved by NGOs, Governments, the United Nations and many institutions around the world, in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and their performance, successes and shortcomings. We must move forward correcting deficiencies and completing what is still missing.

The goal of reformulating the Millennium Development Goals, to move towards a world without poverty, with a second reduction by another 900 million people that live in extreme poverty (income below $1 a day) must be achieved in the 25-year cycle starting now. We must also improve the economy of poor people (from $1 to $10 per day) living in extreme poverty.

This proposal for the first objective of the Millennium Development Goals, must also be considered for the other seven goals, including the participation of NGOs working in the corresponding fields. The Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Ayuda Social Ecológica y Cultural proposes among the new targets to lead the world towards a global economy focused on the welfare of all human beings in which the purpose of the economy is wellness and all human basic needs (health, education, livelihood, progress, environment, etc.) are met. It should also determine limits to the free market to support a sustainable environment and economy. Extreme inequality in the distribution of the world's resources and wealth should lead us to question the current development model.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2014
English
Original: French

2014 session
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by the Federation of Medium-sized Cities, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03908 (E) 190514 110614

Please recycle

Statement

The Federation of Medium-sized Cities, which has special consultative status, welcomes the holding of the high-level segment from 7 to 11 July 2014 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Medium-sized French towns (between 20,000 and 100,000 inhabitants) are very open to the world: the number of official twinnings is estimated at more than 500, many of them in "decentralized cooperation" projects. Our organization is intensely focused on themes relating to cooperation in development, and wishes to contribute to the debate on the future of the global development agenda by setting out the following priorities:

1. Emphasis should be placed on the role in cooperation of local communities, including small and medium-sized ones, because they can develop lasting relationships with local partners. Development aid generates goods and services in recipient countries;

2. The goal of cooperation should be to pinpoint the types of development, and especially economic development, that will benefit partner communities. All cooperation projects need to be based on a shared dialogue so that they will meet the needs identified by the beneficiaries. What must be promoted are partnerships based on reciprocity, trust between all those involved, and ongoing appraisal. Lasting cooperation must now be based on shared issues, and not a simple skills transfer. It is therefore crucial to support the philosophy of guidance;

3. The necessary basis of cooperation for development will be trust relationships between partners, involving the local people;

4. Communities involved in the projects need to upgrade their strategy. If they are really to receive sustainable help, the partnership must be a lasting one;

5. If adequate funding and logistical support are not forthcoming, in particular from States, it will be difficult for cooperation projects to last in the current period of financial crisis. Local authorities must also seek to develop cooperation with non-governmental organizations and commercial enterprises;

6. The United Nations and member States must take care that all levels of local authority can participate in cooperation for development projects in tandem with their local partner communities, with national and international co-financing not being limited just to the most financially important projects. All projects must be eligible for calls for proposals, on the sole condition of their effectiveness and their goodness of fit with the stated objectives;

7. It would seem useful to promote cooperation for development at all levels of government, and not just in major cities. In future, a development policy for the countryside and sub-metropolitan areas in assisted countries must not be neglected.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/17

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2014
English
Original: French

2014 session
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Fondation Ostad Elahi: éthique et solidarité humaine, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03905 (E) 220514 220514

Please recycle

Statement

There is considerable risk that the pursuit of individual interests, to the detriment of the common good, could endanger the gains of the Millennium Development Goals. To mitigate the impact of such a risk, the actions being undertaken, concerning young people in particular, must be accompanied by education in ethics, particularly individual ethics. Such education would enable young people to shape their personality and to build a society that satisfies their natural longing for peace and equity.

Individual ethics is the practical science of human conduct, the ultimate goal of which is to ensure that individuals can develop their true humanity. It allows them to apply the ethical principles that form the common basis of all moral and religious traditions to the different areas of their lives.

The first real task of education in ethics is to consider how the enduring principles that enable human beings to cultivate their moral aspirations can be adapted to the mentality and customs of our time.

Today, it is no longer possible to impose the standards of a traditional, authoritative moral discourse on young people. They have the capacity to understand the value and importance of ethics using rational and pragmatic methods, including through a deepening of the mechanisms that govern human nature and enable the development of human qualities; case studies; situation analyses; trial-and-error exercises, and observation of the causal relationships that separate the universal, objective conditions of development from those qualities that are truly human.

The pedagogical framework required for such education should emphasize open-mindedness, acceptance of others and their differences, exchange of experiences and the desire to achieve tangible results. It is in such a context — similar to that found in the experimental sciences — that young people can be encouraged to act ethically — in their dealings with others, in an informed manner, and over the long term — especially as they can see the benefits of such action on both themselves and their environment.

If such education were widespread, it would pave the way for solutions to such complex issues as:

- Solidarity among peoples, cultures and religions;
- Healthier operations and wiser decisions in all kinds of public or private organizations;
- Reconciliation of the legitimate right of all citizens to focus as a priority on their personal well-being and the development of their sense of the public good;
- Moral self-regulation, which allows individuals to strike a balance between their rights and their duties in an increasingly complex society;
- True tolerance of the fact that everyone should have freedom of thought, and the freedom to choose their beliefs and the meaning they want to give to their life.